Grand Teton

National Park
Drawer 170
Moose, WY 83012
(307) 733-2880

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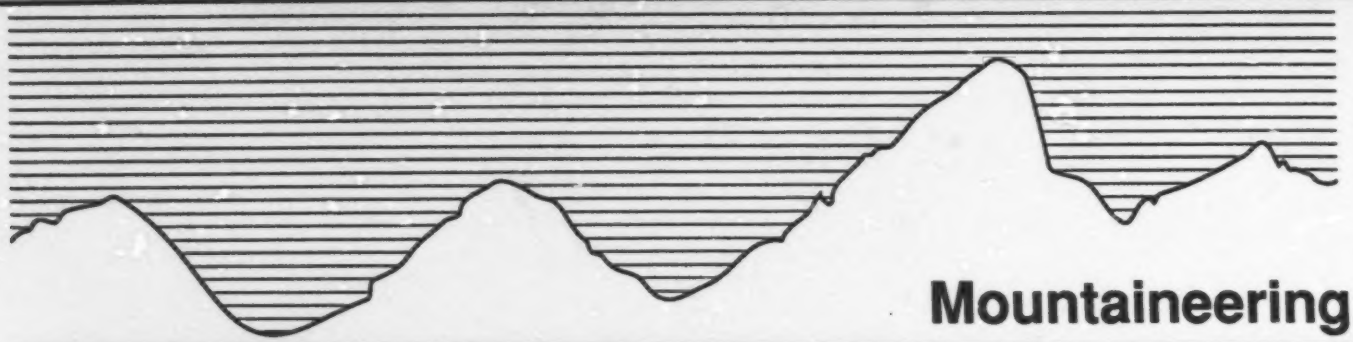

Mountaineering

For general mountaineering, the Teton Range in Grand Teton National Park is the most diverse area in the country . There are excellent rock, snow, and ice routes for beginner through expert alpinist. Also, the Teton peaks are accessible to a degree found in few other mountain ranges. Some peaks can be ascended in one day. The higher and more remote peaks and the longer and more difficult routes are usually climbed from a high camp or with a bivouac, taking two or more days.

Mountaineering is a potentially dangerous sport. Common natural hazards in the Teton Range include but are not limited to lightning, rockfall, avalanches, and crevasses. Falls on steep snow frequently cause accidents. Safe mountaineering requires experience, proper equipment, and good judgment.

MOUNTAIN WEATHER Weather conditions are usually best from mid-July through August, although afternoon thundershowers are common during these months. At least one period of extended inclement weather with snowfall in the high country usually occurs in late August. In the fall, major storms can occur anytime after mid-August, producing snow and ice on most routes. Winter weather in the Teton Range is severe with heavy snowfall, high winds, and extremely low temperatures. During the period of heavy snow accumulation from December through May, avalanche danger is frequently high. Winter conditions are so severe that winter mountaineering can be undertaken only by well-equipped parties of experienced climbers in excellent physical condition. May and June are characterized by prolonged periods of heavy rain, some snow, and sub-freezing temperatures. During these months, steep faces and couloirs are subject to heavy rockfall and wet-snow avalanche activity.

CLIMBING INFORMATION The Jenny Lake Ranger Station is the center for climbing information and registration from June to mid-September. Climbing rangers on duty at this location provide current information on the nature and condition of climbing routes, equipment, experience requirements, and time factors. Guidebooks, maps, and photographs of various peaks and routes are available to assist in planning climbs. From mid-September through May, information can be obtained and registration accomplished at Park Headquarters in Moose. In the interest of safety and to expedite rescue operations, the National Park Service, through the Code of Federal Regulations, requires that all climbers sign out prior to each climb, and sign in upon returning from the backcountry. Notes left at the Ranger Station are not acceptable signouts. Day climbs can be signed out by phoning 733-2880. Climbers returning after the Ranger Station is closed may sign in at the late returning climbers' registration box on the porch of the Ranger Station or the Moose Visitor Center.

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SEARCH & RESCUE POLICY Grand Teton National Park's mountain search and rescue team is fully staffed only during the summer months. Parties that find themselves in difficulty should analyze the situation as objectively as possible before requesting the assistance of the rescue team. Climbers should not rely on immediate assistance from Park personnel, particulary during periods of extreme weather. Self-rescue and evacuation is encouraged whenever possible. If self-rescue is impossible, summon the rescue team as quickly as possible. Provide the rescue team with specific information concerning: time of accident, location, nature of injuries, and individuals involved.

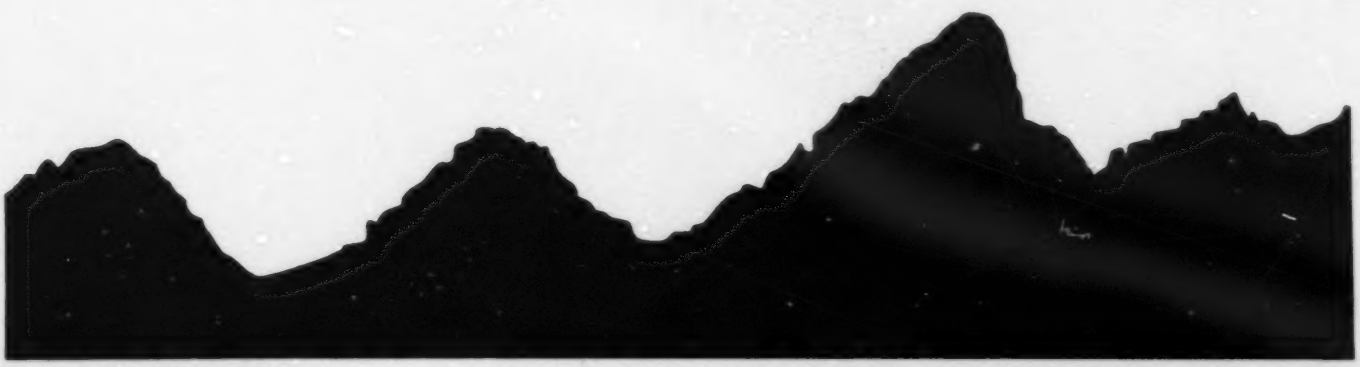
FUNDING All climbers should be aware that search and rescue operations are paid from the Park operating accounts and large expenditures may result in the curtailment of other services. Because of cost, helicopters may not be used unless the accident victim has severe injuries that require immediate medical attention. Donations to support the rescue team are a welcome source of new rescue equipment. Send tax deductible contributions to: Mountain Rescue Fund, Grand Teton National Park, P.O. Drawer 170, Moose, WY 83012.

ACCOMMODATIONS AND EQUIPMENT The Grand Teton Climbers' Ranch, a concession operated by the American Alpine Club, provides low-cost accommodations for registered climbers. For information contact the manager, Climbers' Ranch, Moose, WY 83012. Park campgrounds may be used as base camps, although each campground has a limit of stay. Off-trail campsites or bivouac sites are not reservable, but are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

Conventional mountaineering equipment is satisfactory for climbing in the Teton Range during the summer. Ice axes are essential and crampons may be desirable for many early season climbs, and for some routes throughout the season. Climbing helmets are strongly recommended for technical climbs and for routes where there is exposure to regular rockfall. Climbing equipment and food suitable for backpacking may be purchased in the area, and a limited selection of equipment may be rented.

GUIDE SERVICES AND LITERATURE Mountaineering guide service and instruction may be obtained from Exum Mountain Guides and Jackson Hole Mountain Guides. For information write to: Exum Mountain Guides Inc., P.O. Box 56, Moose, WY 83012 or Jackson Hole Mountain Guides, P.O. Box 709, Wilson, WY 83014.

Guidebooks on climbing in the Teton Range include the condensed version of *A Climber's Guide to the Teton Range* by Leigh Ortenburger, *A Climber's Guide to the Teton Range, Volume II* by Leigh Ortenburger and Reynold Jackson, and Jim Olson's *Selected Climbs in the Teton Range*. Topographic maps of the Park and a guide for the Park trail system, *Teton Trails,* are also available. These publications may be purchased at Park Visitor Centers or by mail from the Grand Teton Natural History Association, Grand Teton National Park, P.O. Drawer 170, Moose, WY 83012 .



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